Remission of tax on fishing stakes.

220. Mr. M. A. Sankunny.—Will the Government be pleased to state the grounds on which the general concession of tax is not given to the tax-payers of fishing stakes?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—The fees fixed for the fishing stakes are almost concessional rates, regard being had to the magnitude of catch from them. The economic depression has not in any way affected the catch, nor has it produced a striking fall in the value of the catch sufficient to justify or call for a remission of license fees. The fact that the fishing stakes are administered by the Revenue Department is no argument for extending the Land Revenue remission to them unless it is proved that the stake holders have been hit hard by the depression and the consequent fall in prices to the same extent as the cultivators of land.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Will the Hon'ble Member tell us whether the price of fish has not gone down since the economic depression began?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—There are some kinds of fish for which the price has gone down. There are some for which the prices have been enhanced, for instance, the bigger variety of fish which fetch more.

Fall in the catch of fishes in the back-waters.

221. Mr. M. A. Sankunni.—Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(a) whether the Government are aware of the extremely poor catch of fish by the Valans in the back-waters;

(b) if not, will the Government be pleased to make a hasty inquiry into the condition of the catch and find out the causes for the same?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—(a) The catch in certain places is reported to be less than what it used to be some ten years back.

(b) No statistics are available to verify the condition of the catch.

The reasons for the fall so far as the Government are aware, are the dredging and reclamations in connection with the Harbour development, noise from the Motor vessels passing by the side of the stakes and the putting up of temporary bunds in

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

canals to safeguard agricultural interests, according as the place affected is estuary, river or canal.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—Since the rate depends upon the variety of the fish, have the Government thought of revising the rates where it is reported that the catch is less?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—Complaints that come from the stake-owners are looked into.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan—May I know when the license fees mentioned in the previous question was fixed?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—At the time of the settlement.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.— Have there been any change subsequent to that?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—No.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Will the Government be pleased to consider the question of revising the rates in view of the fact that the catch is going down?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—The rates are in force for the term of the existing settlement.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Revision means either increase or decrease?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—Certainly.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Is any relief given to the actual sufferers?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—In cases here actual suffering has been proved, relief is given in appropriate cases.

Cattle theft in Trichur Town.

222. Mr. P. Raman Menon.—Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(a) the number of cattle theft cases registered in the Trichur Town station this year;

(b) did one Panickar, conducting a coffee club on the eastern side of Poonkunnam Railway station, lose one cow this year;

(c) does the District Superintendent of Police investigate personally all the cattle theft cases;

(d) did the Trichur District Superintendent of Police investigate the above mentioned cattle theft case; if so, when and with that result?

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly